modifying the payment plan was that the DDA's hire-purchase scheme for the retiring Governments servants was restricted to a maximum of 60 months while the Banks were providing longer terms for repayment.

(d) For the benefit of the allottees, an arrangement had been made by the DDA with the Central Bank of India for financing the flats allotted under the Scheme.

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†WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 5TH MARCH, 2002

Promotion of Satriya Dance

*61. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 505 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd May, 2000, and state:

(a) the steps taken to promote Satriya Dance and achievements made so far after its declaration as Indian classical Dance form;

(b) the programmes undertaken to publish photographic profile, literature and creation of training cum research centre on Satriya Dance at Guwahati, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai including creation of a separate academy on Satriya Dance;

(c) the financial allocation made, executing agency entrusted, item-wise;

(d) whether 'Borgeet' an important component of Satriya Music is grouped under classical category;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (f) The Sangeet Natak Akademi (SNA) does not any more follow the policy of formally declaring any art as classical or otherwise. SNA has recognized the dance and music forms of Satriya as an important part of the cultural heritage of our country. SNA has taken steps to promote and preserve

†The sitting of the Rajya Sabha of Tuesday, the 5th March, 2002 was adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, Speaker, Lok Sabha. Answers to questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Thursday, the 7th March, 2002.

Satriya Dance through financial grants, audio/video documentation of Satriya Dance and allied forms, sponsoring performances, promoting interaction between Satriya artistes and masters of other dance traditions and grant of awards and fellowships. The Akademi has honoured one artist with Akademi Fellowship and nine artists with SNA Awards.

The Centre for Culture Resources and Training (CCRT) has organised lecture demonstrations to explain the evolution, historical background, fundamentals and nuances of Satriya Dance for the benefit of the teachers and student community. They have video documented the Dance form for use in their Training Programme and also prepared color slides and photographs. Scholarships have been awarded to children for Satriya dance under the Cultural Talent Search Scholarship Scheme.

The Government does not have any proposal for setting up a training cum research centre on Satriya Dance at Guwahati, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai or for setting up a separate academy for Satriya Dance, However, SNA proposes to extend support to identified Sattras, Gurus and training institutions in Guwahati under its on going schemes.

There is no system of dance wise financial allocation in these institutions. The expenditure on such activities is incurred under the schemes of the institutions within the over all budget allocation.

The alled forms of Satriya Dance and music including 'Borgeet' have been categorised under the distinct category of Satriya Dance.

Import duty on Soda ash

*62. SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be peased to state:

(a) Whether soda ash attracts a bound rate of 40% as per the norms of World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) if so, the reasons for imposing just 20 per cent duty ignoring the standard slabs customs duty; and

(c) whether Government would reconsider the demand of the soda ash industry and revise the duty its earlier level of 35% and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.